

WAC 51-40-0313

SECTION 313--REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP LC OCCUPANCIES.

313.1 Group LC Occupancies Defined. Group LC Occupancies shall include buildings, structures, or portions thereof, used for the business of providing licensed care to clients in one of the following categories regulated by either the Washington Department of Health or the Department of Social and Health Services:

1. Adult family home.
2. Adult residential rehabilitation facility.
3. Alcoholism intensive inpatient treatment service.
4. Alcoholism detoxification service.
5. Alcoholism long term treatment service.
6. Alcoholism recovery house service.
7. Boarding home.
8. Group care facility.
9. Group care facility for severely and multiple handicapped children.
10. Residential treatment facility for psychiatrically impaired children and youth.

EXCEPTION: Where the care provided at an alcoholism detoxification service is acute care similar to that provided in a hospital, the facility shall be classified as a Group I, Division 1.1 hospital.

313.2 Construction, Height and Allowable Area.

313.2.1 General. Buildings or parts of buildings classed in Group LC because of the use or character of the occupancy shall be limited to the types of construction set forth in this section.

313.2.1.1 Type of construction. Except as provided herein, LC Occupancy buildings may be of any construction type allowed in this code and shall not exceed the limits specified in Sections 504, 505 and 506.

Group LC Occupancies which are licensed for more than six clients and which are more than two stories in height or which have more than 3,000 square feet (279 m²) above the first story shall not be less than one-hour fire-resistive construction throughout.

EXCEPTIONS: Buildings which are licensed for not more than 16 clients may be of Type V-N construction provided:

1. The entire building has an interior wall and ceiling covering consisting of 1/2 inch gypsum wall board or an approved equal installed in accordance with Section 2511; and,
2. An approved smoke-detection system, supervised by an approved central, proprietary or remote station service, is installed throughout the entire structure and is interconnected with any required sprinkler system.

For attic space partitions and draft stops, see Section 708.

313.2.1.2 Area and height. Buildings classified as Group LC

Occupancy shall not exceed, in area or height, the limitations set forth in Table 5-B for Group R, Division 1 Occupancies.

EXCEPTION: LC Occupancies licensed for six or fewer clients may be of unlimited area provided they are limited to 3 stories or less.

313.2.1.3 Mixed Occupancies. Group LC Occupancies shall be separated from Group H occupancies by a four-hour fire-resistive occupancy separation and shall be separated from all other occupancies by a one-hour fire-resistive assembly.

- EXCEPTIONS:**
1. An occupancy separation need not be provided between a Group LC Occupancy licensed for 16 or fewer clients and a carport having no enclosed use above, provided the carport is entirely open on two or more sides.
 2. In a Group LC Occupancy licensed for 16 or fewer clients, the one-hour occupancy separation between a Group LC Occupancy and a Group U, Division 1 Occupancy, may be limited to the installation of materials approved for one-hour fire-resistive construction on the garage side and a self-closing, tight-fitting solid-wood door 1 3/8 inches (35 mm) in thickness, or a self-closing tight-fitting door having a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested in accordance with Part II of UBC Standard 7-2, which is a part of this code, is permitted in lieu of a one-hour fire assembly. Fire dampers need not be installed in air ducts passing through the wall, floor or ceiling separating a Group LC Occupancy from a Group U Occupancy, provided such ducts within the Group U Occupancy are constructed of steel having a thickness not less than 0.019 inch (0.48 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet gage) and having no openings into the Group U Occupancy.
 3. An occupancy separation need not be provided between a Group LC, Boarding Home Occupancy and a Group R, Division 1 Occupancy.

313.3 Location on Property. For fire-resistive protection of exterior walls and openings, as determined by location on property, see Section 503 and Chapter 6. For the purpose of this determination, LC Occupancies licensed for six or fewer clients shall comply with provisions for Group R, Division 3 Occupancies; and all other LC Occupancies shall comply with provisions for Group R, Division 1 Occupancies.

313.4 Access, Means of Egress, and Emergency Escape.

313.4.1 Evacuation capability. Evacuation capability is the ability of the clients of a licensed care facility to respond to an emergency situation and either evacuate a building or move to a point of safety. Clients shall be classified in one of the following levels:

- I -persons physically and mentally capable of walking or traversing a normal path to safety, including the ascent and descent of stairs, and capable of self-preservation, without the physical assistance of another person.
- II -persons physically and mentally capable of traversing a normal path to safety with the use of mobility aids, but unable to ascend or descend stairs without the physical

assistance of another person.

III -persons physically or mentally unable to walk or traverse a normal path to safety without the physical assistance of another person.

313.4.2 Means of egress. Means of egress shall be provided as specified in Chapter 10. For the purpose of determining egress requirements, Group LC Occupancies shall be considered to have an occupant load factor of 300. At least two means of egress shall be required when the number of occupants (clients and staff) is 10 or more. For all other requirements of Chapter 10, Group LC Occupancies licensed for six or fewer clients shall comply with provisions for Group R, Division 3 Occupancies; and all other Group LC Occupancies shall comply with provisions for Group R, Division 1 Occupancies.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Means of egress illumination required by Section 1003.2.9.1 need not be provided in any Group LC Occupancy licensed for six or fewer clients.
2. In LC Occupancies with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system and approved automatic fire alarm system, waiting and resting areas may be open to the corridor provided:
2.1 Each rest area does not exceed 150 square feet, excluding the corridor width; and
2.2 Walls defining the space shall continue the construction of the corridor's wall; and
2.3 The floor on which the rest area or areas are located is divided into at least two compartments by smoke barrier walls of not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction meeting the requirements of Section 308.2.2.1 and Section 905.2.3; and
2.4 Combustible furnishings located within the rest area are flame resistant as defined by Uniform Fire Code Section 207; and
2.5 Emergency means of egress lighting is provided as required by Section 1003.2.9.1 to illuminate the area.

313.4.3 Accessibility. In new construction, Group LC Occupancies regardless of the number of clients shall comply with accessibility standards for Group R, Division 1 apartment buildings or congregate residences as specified in Chapter 11.

Where a Group LC Occupancy is being established by change of occupancy in an existing building, the building shall be altered to comply with apartment building or congregate residence provisions of Chapter 11 if any client is a person with disability. The alterations shall provide the minimum necessary access appropriate for the disabilities of clients. Any alteration, whether to accommodate a client with disability or for another purpose, shall comply with Part III of Chapter 11.

313.4.4 Emergency escape.

313.4.4.1 Location of sleeping rooms. In every licensed care facility, all sleeping rooms occupied by clients with an evacuation capability of II or III shall be located on a grade level floor which provides not less than two means of egress which do not require clients to use stairs, elevator, or platform lift to exit the facility.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. In a Group LC Occupancy licensed to provide care to two or fewer clients with an evacuation capability of II or III and six or fewer total clients, only one means of egress which does not require clients to use stairs, elevator or platform lift to exit the facility need be provided.
2. Sleeping rooms for clients with an evacuation capability of II or III may be located on floors other than at grade level, provided the facility is divided into at least two compartments by smoke barriers of not less than one-hour fire-resistance meeting the requirements of Sections 308.2.2.1 and 905.2.3.

313.4.4.2 Escape windows and doors. Every sleeping room below the fourth story (including basements) shall have at least one operable window or door approved for emergency escape or rescue which shall open directly into a public street, public alley, yard or exit court. The emergency window shall be operable from the inside to provide a full, clear opening without the use of separate tools.

EXCEPTION: The window or door may open into an atrium complying with Section 402 provided the window or door opens onto an exit-access balcony and the sleeping room has an exit or exit-access doorway which does not open into the atrium.

Escape or rescue windows shall have a minimum net clear openable area of 5.7 square feet (0.53 m²). The minimum net clear openable height dimension shall be 24 inches (610 mm). The minimum net clear openable width dimension shall be 20 inches (508 mm). When windows are provided as a means of escape or rescue, they shall have a finished sill height not more than 44 inches (1118 mm) above the floor.

Escape and rescue windows with a finished sill height below the adjacent ground elevation shall have a window well. Window wells at escape and rescue windows shall comply with the following:

1. The clear horizontal dimension shall allow the window to be fully opened and provide a minimum accessible net clear opening of 9 square feet (0.84 m²), with a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm).

2. Window wells with a vertical depth of more than 44 inches (1118 mm) shall be equipped with an approved permanently affixed ladder or stairs that are accessible with the window in the fully open position. The ladder or stairs shall not encroach into the required dimensions of the window well by more than 6 inches (152 mm).

Bars, grilles, grates or similar devices may be installed on emergency escape windows, doors or window wells, provided:

1. The devices are equipped with approved release mechanisms which are operable from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort; and

2. The building is equipped with smoke detectors installed in accordance with Section 313.8.

313.5 Light, Ventilation and Sanitation.

313.5.1 General. For the purpose of determining the light and ventilation for Group LC Occupancies required by this section, any room may be considered as a portion of an adjoining room when one half of the area of the common wall is open and unobstructed and provides an opening of not less than one tenth of the floor area of the interior room or 25 square feet (2.3 m²), whichever is greater.

Exterior openings for natural light or ventilation required by this section shall open directly onto a public way or a yard or court as set for in Section 313.5.4.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Required exterior openings may open into a roofed porch where the porch:

- 1.1 Abuts a public way, yard or court; and
 - 1.2 Has a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet (2134 mm); and
 - 1.3 Has a longer side at least 65 percent open and unobstructed.
2. Skylights.

313.5.2 Light. Sleeping rooms and habitable rooms within the licensed care facility shall be provided with natural light by means of exterior glazed openings with an area not less than one tenth of the floor area of such rooms with a minimum of 10 square feet (0.93 m²).

EXCEPTION: Kitchens may be provided with artificial light.

313.5.3 Ventilation. Group LC Occupancies shall comply with provisions for Group R Occupancies as provided in the Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code ([WAC 51-13](#)).

313.5.4 Yards and Courts.

313.5.4.1 General. This section shall apply to yards and courts adjacent to exterior openings that provide required light or ventilation. Such yards and courts shall be on the same property as the building.

313.5.4.2 Yards. Yards shall not be less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width for one-story and two-story buildings. For buildings more than two stories in height, the minimum width of the yard shall be increased at the rate of 1 foot (305 mm) for each additional story. For buildings exceeding 14 stories in height, the required width of the yard shall be computed on the basis of 14 stories.

313.5.4.3 Courts. Courts shall not be less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width. Courts having windows opening on opposite sides shall not be less than 6 feet (1829 mm) in width. Courts bounded on three or more sides by the walls of the building shall not be less than 10 feet (3048 mm) in length unless bounded on one end by a public way or yard. For buildings more than two stories in height, the court shall be increased 1 foot (305 mm) in width and 2 feet (610 mm) in length for each additional story. For buildings exceeding 14 stories in height, the required dimensions shall be computed on the basis of 14

stories.

Adequate access shall be provided to the bottom of all courts for cleaning purposes. Every court more than two stories in height shall be provided with a horizontal air intake at the bottom not less than 10 square feet (0.93 m²) in area and leading to the exterior of the building unless abutting a yard or a public way. The construction of the air intake shall be as required for the court walls of the building but in no case less than one-hour fire resistive.

313.5.4.4 Eaves. Eaves over required windows shall extend no closer than 30 inches (762 mm) from the side and rear property lines. See also Sections 503.2 and 705.

313.5.5 Sanitation.

313.5.5.1 General. Sanitation facilities shall comply with Chapter 29 and the provisions of this section. Any room in which a water closet is located shall be separated from food preparation or storage rooms by a self-closing tight-fitting door.

313.5.5.2 Group LC Occupancies with six or fewer clients.

Group LC Occupancies licensed for six or fewer clients shall be provided with not less than one water closet, one lavatory and one bathtub or shower.

313.5.5.3 Group LC Occupancies with more than six clients.

Group LC Occupancies licensed for more than six clients shall provide not less than one water closet for each 10 male clients, or fractional part thereof, and not less than one water closet for each 8 female clients, or fractional part thereof.

In addition, not less than one lavatory shall be provided for each 12 male clients, or fractional part thereof, and not less than one lavatory for each 12 female clients, or fractional part thereof. Where the number of clients of either sex exceeds 12, one lavatory shall be added for each additional 20 males, or fractional part thereof, and one lavatory shall be added for each additional 15 females, or fractional part thereof.

In addition, not less than one bathtub or shower shall be provided for every eight clients, or fractional part thereof. Where there are female clients, one additional bathtub or shower shall be provided for each 30 female clients, or fractional part thereof. Where the number of total clients exceeds 150, one bathtub or shower shall be provided for each 20 clients, or fractional part thereof, over 150 clients.

313.6 Room Dimensions.

313.6.1 Ceiling Heights. Habitable space shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet 6 inches (2286 mm) except as otherwise permitted in this section. Kitchens, halls, bathrooms and toilet compartments may have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) measured to the lowest projection from the ceiling. Where exposed beam ceiling members are spaced at less than 48 inches (1219 mm) on center, ceiling height shall be measured to the bottom of those members. Where exposed

beam ceilings members are spaced at 48 inches (1219 mm) or more on center, ceiling height shall be measured to the bottom of the deck supported by these members, provided that the bottom of the members is not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the floor.

If any room in a building has a sloping ceiling, the prescribed ceiling height for the room is required in only one half of the area thereof. No portion of the room measuring less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall be included in any computation of the minimum area thereof.

If any room has a furred ceiling, the prescribed ceiling height is required in two thirds the area thereof, but in no case shall the height of the furred ceiling be less than 7 feet (2134 mm).

313.6.2 Floor area. Group LC Occupancies shall have at least one room which shall have not less than 120 square feet (11.2 m²) of floor area. Other habitable rooms except kitchens shall have an area of not less than 70 square feet (6.5 m²).

313.6.3 Width. Habitable rooms other than kitchens shall not be less than 7 feet (2134 mm) in any dimension.

313.7 Shaft and Exit Enclosures. Exits shall be enclosed as specified in Chapter 10.

Elevator shafts, vent shafts, dumbwaiter shafts, clothes chutes and other vertical openings shall be enclosed and the enclosure shall be as specified in Section 711.

313.8 Smoke Detectors and Sprinkler Systems.

313.8.1 Smoke detectors.

313.8.1.1 General. Rooms within licensed care facilities that are used for sleeping purposes shall be provided with smoke detectors. Detectors shall be installed in accordance with the approved manufacturer's instructions.

313.8.1.2 Additions, alterations or repairs. When the valuation of an addition, alteration or repair to a Group LC Occupancy exceeds \$1,000 and a permit is required, or when one or more sleeping rooms is added or created in an existing Group LC Occupancy, smoke detectors shall be installed in accordance with Sections 313.8.1.3 and 313.8.1.4 of this section.

EXCEPTION: Repairs to the exterior surfaces are exempt from the requirements of this section.

313.8.1.3 Power source. In new construction, required smoke detectors shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. The detector shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. Smoke detectors may be solely battery operated when installed in existing buildings; or in buildings without commercial power; or in

buildings which undergo alterations, repairs or additions regulated by Section 313.8.1.2.

313.8.1.4 Location. A detector shall be installed in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the licensed care facility has more than one story or in facilities with basements, a detector shall be installed on each story and in the basement. Where a story or basement is split into two or more levels, the smoke detector shall be installed on the upper level, except that when the lower level contains a sleeping area, a detector shall be installed on each level. When sleeping rooms are on an upper level, the detector shall be placed at the ceiling of the upper level in close proximity to the stairway. Where the ceiling height of a room open to a hallway serving the bedrooms exceeds that of the hallway by 24 inches (610 mm) or more, smoke detectors shall be installed in the hallway and in the adjacent room. Detectors shall sound an alarm audible in all sleeping areas of the licensed care facility in which they are located.

313.8.2 Sprinkler and standpipe systems.

313.8.2.1 Sprinkler Systems. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout every licensed care facility three or more stories in height or licensed for more than 16 clients. Licensed care facilities with 16 or fewer clients, licensed to provide care for more than two clients who have an evacuation capability of II or III, shall be provided with an automatic sprinkler system throughout the facility.

EXCEPTION: An automatic sprinkler system need not be installed in any licensed care facility licensed for six or fewer clients regardless of the level of evacuation capability.

Where a sprinkler system is required, a system complying with UBC Standard 9-1 shall be installed.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. An automatic sprinkler system complying with UBC Standard 9-3 may be installed in buildings of four stories or less.
2. Where a Group LC Occupancy is being established by change of occupancy in an existing building not protected by a sprinkler system as is required above for buildings of new construction, an automatic sprinkler system complying with NFPA Standard 13d may be installed provided the care facility is licensed for not more than 16 clients.

Residential or quick-response heads shall be used in all sprinkler systems.

313.8.2.2 Standpipe systems. Standpipe systems shall be provided where required by Section 904.5.

313.9 Fire Alarm Systems. Group LC Occupancies licensed for more than 16 clients shall be provided with an approved manual and automatic fire alarm system. The local alarm shall provide an alarm signal with a sound pressure level of 15 dBA

above the average ambient sound level in every occupied space within the building. The minimum sound pressure level shall be 70 dBA. The maximum sound pressure level shall not exceed 110 dBA at the minimum hearing distance from the audible appliance.

313.10 Heating. Licensed care facilities shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 70°F (21°C) at a point 3 feet (914 mm) above the floor in all habitable rooms.

313.11 Special Hazards. Chimneys and heating apparatus shall conform to the requirements of Chapter 31 and the Mechanical Code.

In Group LC Occupancies licensed for more than six clients, the storage, use and handling of flammable and combustible liquids shall be in accordance with the Fire Code. In such facilities, doors leading into rooms in which Class I flammable liquids are stored or used shall be protected by a fire assembly having a one-hour fire-protection rating. Such fire assembly shall be self-closing and shall be posted with a sign on each side of the door in 1-inch (25.4 mm) block letters stating: FIRE DOOR--KEEP CLOSED.

In Group LC Occupancies licensed for more than 16 clients, rooms containing a boiler, central heating plant or hot-water supply boiler shall be separated from the rest of the building by not less than a one-hour occupancy separation.

[Statutory Authority: [RCW 19.27.031](#) and [19.27.074](#), 98-02-054, § 51-40-0313, filed 1/6/98, effective 7/1/98.